

**ABSTRACT**

An intervertebral prosthetic joint including a first articular component adapted to engage a first vertebra and a second articular component adapted to engage a second

vertebra. The articular components include abutting convex and concave articular surfaces that cooperate to permit articulating motion between the articular components.

At least one of the convex and concave articular surfaces includes at least one surface depression that is configured to facilitate removal of matter disposed between abutting portions of the articular surfaces. In one embodiment of the prosthetic joint, each of the

articular components has a vertebral bearing surface and a flange extending therefrom that is configured to penetrate a corresponding one of the first and second vertebrae, with the flange defining at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone through-growth.